

For immediate release  
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### **Rapid Response Team Activated to Aid Albertson's Employees**

JEFFERSON CITY -- The state has activated its Rapid Response Team to help workers that will be dislocated when the four Albertson's Grocery Stores in Springfield and the store in Nixa change ownership. About 527 employees at those five locations will be affected by the change, however, many are expected to be hired by the new owners, Ramey/Price Cutter.

The stores are scheduled to re-open soon under Ramey/Price Cutter.

The Rapid Response team is composed of representatives from the Department of Economic Development's Division of Workforce Development (DWD) and the Ozark Region Missouri Career Center. The team responds to the needs of workers who have lost their jobs by providing special training and re-employment services.

Joseph L. Driskill, director of the Department of Economic Development, has directed DWD to assist Albertson's employees by offering Missouri Career Center services.

"We remain committed to working with local agencies in providing assistance to these dislocated workers in finding new jobs and, in some cases, acquiring any needed training toward a new skill," Driskill said. "The Rapid Response team is imminently qualified and determined in their efforts."

The Rapid Response Team and the local Missouri Career Center will provide immediate services to workers needing assistance, including assessment and testing, career counseling, resume writing, interviewing skills, job search methods, on-the-job training and tuition assistance for vocational training or education. These services are free of charge to the workers.

Representatives from DWD are working with the company to ensure that dislocated workers have access to Career Center services. Meetings will be held with workers to explain how these services can help them find a new job at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. on April 17 at the Missouri Career Center at 1514 South Glenstone in Springfield.

Employers interested in hiring Albertson's workers can call 1-800-877-8698.

Since 1983--when Missouri's dislocated worker program was established--more than 100,000 dislocated workers have participated in the program. Approximately 80 percent of the people assisted by the program find new employment.

Laid-off workers interested in the training or re-employment services offered through the Rapid Response team can call DWD at 1-800-877-8698 or the Ozark Region Missouri Career Center office at 417-841-3338.